

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Matthew Curreri : Art Unit:
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FOR: PROGRAM SURF GRID :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 12-18 with the following amended claims:

1 11. A user interface method for controlling a television receiver to
2 select television programs that are transmitted through the channels for display,
3 wherein the television receiver is configured to receive C channels, where C is an
4 integer, the method comprising the steps of:

5 displaying a channel matrix having n columns and m rows for displaying
6 channel indicators for at most n x m channels, where n and m are positive integers
7 greater than 2 and n x m is less than C, each definable channel indicator
8 corresponding to a respectively different position in the matrix, wherein channels
9 having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted;

10 moving a cursor over the channel indicators in the matrix to indicate a
11 possible selection of a channel corresponding to one of the definable channel
12 indicators;

13 displaying status information concerning the possibly selected channel;
14 and

responsive to the displayed status information, selecting the channel indicator to cause the television receiver to display the television program corresponding to the channel indicator.

12. A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the channels represented by the channel matrix are one group of channels among a plurality of channel groups and the method further includes the steps of:

prompting a viewer to select the features of the programs;

displaying a channel group selector representing the one group of channels in which all channel indicators in the one group of channels that have at least one of the selected features are highlighted.

13. A method in accordance with claim 12 further wherein the step of highlighting the channel indicators for the programs having the viewer selected features includes the step of displaying the highlighted channel indicators in a different color than other channel indicators in the channel matrix.

14. A method in accordance with claim 13 further including the steps of:

displaying a feature selection portion including a plurality of features representing respectively different types of programs and at least one feature representing a function that may be performed on the channels represented by the channel matrix and prompting a viewer to select at least one program type or at least one function as the selected features; and

highlighting the channels having the programs with the selected program types and displaying, in the status information, results of applying the at least one selected function to the possibly selected channel.

15. A method in accordance with claim 14 where the at least one function includes determining a V-Chip rating for the possibly selected channel.

1 16. Apparatus for implementing a display interface having a group of
2 channels for tuning a television receiver, said display interface comprising:

3 means for displaying a channel matrix having n columns and m rows for
4 displaying definable channel indicators for at most $n \times m$ channels, where n and m are
5 positive integers greater than 2, each definable channel indicator corresponding to a
6 respectively different position in the matrix wherein channels having programs with
7 viewer selected features are highlighted;

8 means for moving a cursor over the definable channel indicators in the
9 matrix to indicate a possible selection of a channel corresponding to one of the
10 definable channel indicators;

11 means for displaying status information concerning the possibly selected
12 channel; and

13 means, responsive to the displayed status information, for indicating a
14 selection of the channel indicator corresponding to the possibly selected channel to
15 tune the television receiver to receive the program corresponding to the selected
16 channel indicator.

1 17. A computer readable carrier including a computer program that
2 controls a computer to implement a display interface having a group of channels for
3 tuning a television receiver, the computer program causing the computer to perform
4 the steps of:

5 displaying a channel matrix having n columns and m rows for displaying
6 definable channel indicators for at most $n \times m$ channels, where n and m are positive
7 integers greater than 2, each definable channel indicator corresponding to a
8 respectively different position in the matrix, wherein channels having programs with
9 viewer selected features are highlighted;

10 moving a cursor over the channel indicators in the matrix to indicate a
11 possible selection of a channel corresponding to one of the channel indicators;

12 displaying status information concerning the possibly selected channel;
13 and

14 responsive to the displayed status information, selecting the channel
15 indicator corresponding to the possibly selected channel to cause the television
16 receiver to display the television program corresponding to the selected channel
17 indicator.


12 displaying status information concerning the possibly selected channel;
13 and

14 responsive to the displayed status information, selecting the channel
15 indicator corresponding to the possibly selected channel to cause the television
16 receiver to display the television program corresponding to the selected channel
17 indicator.

REMARKS

The above-identified application is amended to correct minor defects. No substantive change is made by this amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,



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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

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December 19, 2000

Kathleen Libby



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 ~~12~~11. A user interface method for controlling a television receiver to
2 select television programs that are transmitted through the channels for display,
3 wherein the television receiver is configured to receive C channels, where C is an
4 integer, the method comprising the steps of:

5 displaying a channel matrix having n columns and m rows for displaying
6 channel indicators for at most n x m channels, where n and m are positive integers
7 greater than 2 and n x m is less than C, each definable channel indicator
8 corresponding to a respectively different position in the matrix, wherein channels
9 having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted;

10 moving a cursor over the channel indicators in the matrix to indicate a
11 possible selection of a channel corresponding to one of the definable channel
12 indicators;

13 displaying status information concerning the possibly selected channel;
14 and

15 responsive to the displayed status information, selecting the channel
16 indicator to cause the television receiver to display the television program
17 corresponding to the channel indicator.

1 ~~13~~12. A method in accordance with claim ~~12~~11, wherein the channels
2 represented by the channel matrix are one group of channels among a plurality of
3 channel groups and the method further includes the steps of:

4 prompting a viewer to select the features of the programs;

5 displaying a channel group selector representing the one group of
6 channels in which all channel indicators in the one group of channels that have at least
7 one of the selected features are highlighted.

1 ~~14~~13. A method in accordance with claim ~~13~~12 further wherein the step
2 of highlighting the channel indicators for the programs having the viewer selected
3 features includes the step of displaying the highlighted channel indicators in a different
4 color than other channel indicators in the channel matrix.

1 ~~15~~14. A method in accordance with claim ~~14~~13 further including the
2 steps of:

3 displaying a feature selection portion including a plurality of features
4 representing respectively different types of programs and at least one feature
5 representing a function that may be performed on the channels represented by the
6 channel matrix and prompting a viewer to select at least one program type or at least
7 one function as the selected features; and

8 highlighting the channels having the programs with the selected program
9 types and displaying, in the status information, results of applying the at least one
10 selected function to the possibly selected channel.

1 ~~16~~15. A method in accordance with claim ~~15~~14 where the at least one
2 function includes determining a V-Chip rating for the possibly selected channel.

1 ~~17~~16. Apparatus for implementing a display interface having a group of
2 channels for tuning a television receiver, said display interface comprising:

3 means for displaying a channel matrix having n columns and m rows for
4 displaying definable channel indicators for at most n x m channels, where n and m are
5 positive integers greater than 2, each definable channel indicator corresponding to a
6 respectively different position in the matrix wherein channels having programs with
7 viewer selected features are highlighted;

8 means for moving a cursor over the definable channel indicators in the
9 matrix to indicate a possible selection of a channel corresponding to one of the
10 definable channel indicators;

means for displaying status information concerning the possibly selected channel; and

means, responsive to the displayed status information, for indicating a selection of the channel indicator corresponding to the possibly selected channel to tune the television receiver to receive the program corresponding to the selected channel indicator.

1817. A computer readable carrier including a computer program that controls a computer to implement a display interface having a group of channels for tuning a television receiver, the computer program causing the computer to perform the steps of:

displaying a channel matrix having n columns and m rows for displaying definable channel indicators for at most $n \times m$ channels, where n and m are positive integers greater than 2, each definable channel indicator corresponding to a respectively different position in the matrix, wherein channels having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted;

moving a cursor over the channel indicators in the matrix to indicate a possible selection of a channel corresponding to one of the channel indicators;

displaying status information concerning the possibly selected channel; and

responsive to the displayed status information, selecting the channel indicator corresponding to the possibly selected channel to cause the television receiver to display the television program corresponding to the selected channel indicator.